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Due Date: December 22, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:	
Inventor: Alexander Thoemmes et al.	Examiner: Yang, Ryan R.
Serial #: 09/256,896	Group Art Unit: 2672
Filed: February 24, 1999	Appeal No.: _____
Title: ACQUIRING AND UNACQUIRING ALIGNMENT AND EXTENSION POINTS	

REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANTS

Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.193, Appellants hereby submit their Reply Brief on Appeal from the final rejection of claims 1-38 of the above-identified application, as set forth in the Office Action mailed January 21, 2003. The Reply Brief is submitted in triplicate.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0494 for the amount of $330.00 to cover the required fee for filing this Reply Brief. Also, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0494.

I. ARGUMENTS

A. Related Appeals and Interferences

In the Answer, the Examiner asserts that the Appeal Brief did not contain a statement identifying the related appeals and interferences.

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However, contrary to this assertion, page 1 of the Brief contained such a statement as follows: "There are no related appeals or interferences for the above-referenced patent application."

B. Claims 36 and 38 Are Patentable Over the Cited References

In response to the Appeal Brief, the Examiner's Answer now relies on additional portions of Venolia to reject these claims. Specifically, in addition to relying on col. 22, lines 9-11, the Answer now relies on figure 3, col. 12, lines 6-7, col. 12, line 21, and example (d) of Fig. 10. The Answer's "Response to Argument" suggests that Venolia's Alignment and Dragging a Vertex is Equivalent to the claimed "acquiring."

In submitting this argument, the Answer recites a dictionary definition of the term "acquire" that provides "to come ...into control of" and states that since Venolia's "object under alignment process is under some form of control, the object under alignment is somehow acquired."

Indeed, Venolia does provide for dragging a vertex towards another vertex. In this regard, the vertex being dragged is under the control of the cursor and could have been "acquired" by the user. However, the question is not whether the vertex has been merely acquired but how the vertex has been acquired. Appellants note that the claims provides for acquiring a data point of interest "after a command is received to move a cursor near the data point". Venolia completely fails to describe such an acquiring. In fact, the Answer admits such a lack of teaching by stating that "the object under alignment is somehow acquired". In this regard, claim language cannot simply be disregarded or ignored when attempting to apply prior art.

Since only one vertex in Venolia is being dragged, only one vertex is under the control of the cursor. Accordingly, Appellants assume that the Examiner is asserting that this vertex must have been acquired in accordance with the claim language. However, Venolia does not describe or suggest, implicitly or explicitly, that the vertex is acquired only after a cursor has been moved near the data point. In this regard, we do not know how Venolia's vertex has been acquired. Alternative vertex selections may include using some sort of properties window, using keyboard commands, or some other method. In this regard, Venolia lacks any suggestion regarding the actual acquiring process. Again, as stated in the Appeal Brief, aligning two objects is not equivalent or remotely similar to the point acquiring process. While an object being aligned may need to be under the

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control of the user to be aligned, how the object becomes under such control must be determined when evaluating the present claims.

In addition to the above, the claims provide that the data point of interest is "not acquired without the modifier command". To teach this claim element, the Answer cites a dictionary definition of the term "modify" (as making minor changes in) and states that since keyboard command or menu selections are used for creating or breaking object alignments, they are modifier commands. Again, Appellants agree that when aligning an object in Venolia, a keyboard or menu command may be used to make or break an alignment (see col. 22, lines 9-11). However, the use of a keyboard command when two objects are close to each other so that the objects are aligned (or to break up such an alignment) is not even remotely similar to acquiring a data point. If we assume the Answer's suggestion is true, then prior to the alignment process, a data point is acquired. Accordingly, the first step would be to acquire a data point followed by the actual alignment process. During the alignment process, in accordance with Venolia, when the objects are moved together, a keyboard command may be used to align the already selected/acquired objects. There is no suggestion, that the object itself (or a point of the object) is only acquired after a modifier command has been selected. Instead, Venolia merely teaches using a keyboard command in the actual alignment process of the objects (i.e., after objects have been selected and are moved towards each other with the desire to align the objects) and NOT as part of the object or vertex selection/acquisition process.

The Answer continues and relies on col. 10, lines 9-15 and states that pressing a mouse button can qualify as a modifier command, and "what ever happens to the object when the cursor moves near by, qualify as an acquiring process". Again, Appellants note that the cited portion does not provide for acquiring a point only with a modifier command. Instead, the cited portion provides the ability for a cursor to manipulate an object that has already been selected: "The cursor enables the operator to manipulate the position and orientation of a selected object..." In other words, the cursor does not provide for the selection of the object, but only for manipulating an already selected object. Venolia then describes pressing the mouse button when the cursor is near the center of the displayed object which enables the user to positionally translate the object. Examining the full paragraph in col. 10, lines 9-20 sheds some light on Venolia's teaching:

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> The cursor 20 enables the operator to manipulate the position and orientation of a selected object. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, pressing the mouse button and keeping it depressed when the cursor 20 is near the center of the displayed object 22 enables the user to positionally translate the object in accordance with the cursor 20. That is, the object 22 does not rotate as it is moved across the display screen. Furthermore, in the preferred embodiment, the cursor 20 changes shape when in the center of the object 22 to indicate that the cursor 20 has entered the center region of the object 22 where the object 22 can be translated without being rotated.

What this paragraph suggests is that pressing the mouse allows the object to move without being rotated. However, again, there is no suggestion that the object is not acquired without the modifier command. Further, this paragraph only refers to moving the object itself and not selecting a particular point on the object without the modifier command. Accordingly, contrary to the assertion in the final Office Action and the Answer, regardless of what "happens to the object when the cursor moves near by", it does not qualify as an acquiring point process as claimed. The claims provide with particularity how a data point is acquired – when (a) after a cursor is moved near by and (b) a modifier command must be present.

To teach the data point of interest, the Answer again recites a dictionary definition for the term vertex and relies on Venolia's vertex dragging. As described above, such a teaching does not teach the invention as claimed. Dragging a vertex does not illustrate how or when the vertex is acquired. Nor is there any description that the vertex cannot be acquired without a modifier command.

As described above, Venolia fails to teach various claimed elements including the (1) acquisition of a data point of interest; (2) acquisition of the data point after a cursor moves near the data point; and (3) acquisition of a data point only with a modifier command.

C. Independent Claims 1, 13, 24, and 35 Are Patentable Over the Cited References

In addition to restating the grounds of rejection of the final Office Action, the Answer also relies on col. 12, lines 6-7, col. 12, lines 21, and col. 12, lines 28-30. As stated in the Appeal Brief, Appellants again reassert:

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1. Neither Venolia, Kimble, nor Newell teach, disclose or suggest acquiring a data point of interest on a drawing object; and

2. Neither Venolia, Kimble, nor Newell teach, disclose or suggest acquiring a data point after a cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time.

To teach the acquiring of the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time, the Answer provides:

> ...it is inherent that it takes processing time for the apparatus to acquire data point. Venolia is silent about the fact that acquiring data point requires time, however, this is known in the art as taught by Kimble. Kimble discloses acquiring a cursor after the cursor remains nears an object after a period of time (Figure 7, 164, "By "dwelling on the icon/object (i.e., by not utilizing a switch or moving the cursor), the function associated with the icon/object upon which the cursor is "dwelling" is automatically activated", column 9, line 34-37).

In the "Response to Arguments" section, the Answer again relies on the vertex dragging operation and the positional translation manipulation of Venolia to teach acquiring the data point. The Answer then states:

> As for "acquisition pause time", it is inherent in the art that it takes time for the apparatus to execute a process after a command is issued. Since Venolia is silent about this fact, examiner used Kimble's teaching to meet this limitation.

Appellants agree that it may take time to execute a process after a command is issued. Such a time is often based on the processor speed. However, the presently claimed invention specifically provides for acquiring a data point after a cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time and not based on processor speed or the normal time it takes to execute a process after a command is issued. Such a claimed cursor location and specified pause time are not even remotely contemplated by Venolia. The final Office Action and Answer admit such a lack of teaching in Venolia and rely on Kimble to meet this limitation.

The Appellants earlier submitted that Venolia and Kimble were nonanalagous art. The Answer relies on *In Re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992) and stated that "a prior art reference must either be in the field of Appellants' endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the Appellants were concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention." The Answer then states that both Kimble's graphical object (icon) and Venolia's drawing object are image of objects manipulatable by a user.

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Appellants respectfully traverse and disagree with the relationship between Kimble and Venolia. Using In Re Oetiker, the analysis provides (1) that the references must be in the field of Appellants' endeavor; and (2) if not in the same field of endeavor, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the Appellants were concerned.

The field of Appellants' endeavor is drawing applications and computer aided drafting tools for acquiring points in a drawing (see page 1, lines 15-18 of the present specification). The field of Venolia is computer graphics and alignment field gradients exerted by objects surrounding an object displayed in a two-dimensional (2D) or three-dimensional (3D) graphical display space appearing on a computer screen (see col. 1, lines 5-12). Venolia's specification continues and describes computer-aided design (CAD) programs and the like. Accordingly, Appellants accept that Venolia and the present invention are in related fields of endeavor – CAD and drawing programs.

Kimble's field of endeavor is

> ...technology which assists physically challenged users in efficiently utilizing graphical user interface applications. Still more particularly, the present invention related to technology which assists physically challenged users in manipulating graphically displayed icons and other objects displayed within graphical user interface devices.

However, contrary to describing drawing programs or the manipulation of objects within a drawing program (as in Venolia and the present invention), Kimble is not in such a field of endeavor. Instead, Kimble merely describes how to assist physically challenged users in selecting icons on a screen.

Since they are not in the same field of endeavor, the next stage in the analysis (under In Re Oetiker) provides that the references must be reasonably pertinent to the particular program with which Appellants were concerned. The problems addressed by Appellants' invention are set forth on pages 1-2 of the specification. For example, Appellants' invention provides a method of acquiring and unacquiring interesting points without a large number of lines and points flashing about on the screen. Such a problem is very clearly distinguishable from Kimble – assisting physically challenged users (or otherwise) to easily and efficiently access graphically displayed icons and other graphical objects (see col. 1, lines 54-58). In fact, Kimble does not even mention acquiring interesting points on an object or flashing lines or points on a screen. Accordingly, Kimble is non-analagous art to both Venolia and the present invention.

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In addition to the above, Appellants again assert that Kimble fails to acquire a data point on an object based on an acquisition pause time. The Answer provides that Venolia is used to teach the acquiring limitation with Kimble solely being used to teach the pause time limitation. However, as stated in the Appeal Brief, the pause time in the present invention is closely tied together with the effect of the pause time as claimed. In the present claims, the pause time is used to determine when a data point is acquired. Kimble does not teach such an acquisition. Instead, Kimble merely teaches the activation of a function of an icon after a cursor remains near the icon (see col. 9, lines 34-46) and snapping a cursor to a neighboring icon if a cursor is not moved after a specified time interval (see col. 10, lines 31-42). However, neither of these teachings even remotely teaches acquiring a data point on a drawing object.

The Answer suggests that "snapping an icon is a form of controlling the icon and, according to the definition is acquiring". However, Kimble does not provide for snapping an icon or controlling an icon. Instead, Kimble provides for snapping a cursor to an icon. Thus, the cursor is merely snapping to an existing object. In this regard, a data point on an object is not being acquired. Instead, a cursor is merely snapped to an entire object/icon (and not a specific point on the object) so that the icon can more easily be activated by physically challenged users. Again, the claims provide for acquiring the data point on the drawing object after a cursor remains near the data point. Snapping to an icon is not even remotely similar to acquiring the icon. Nor is it similar to acquiring a point on the icon. Instead, such an operation merely moves the cursor to a new location (i.e., over the icon). In this regard, the cursor may be acquired for movement near the icon. However, the cursor is not acquired after an acquisition pause time, instead, the cursor is always acquired (since it is controlled by the user) and merely snaps when positioned (under the control of the user) near an icon for a time interval. In addition, acquiring a cursor is NOT equivalent to acquiring an interesting point on a drawing object as claimed.

The Answer then continues and again states that Venolia is used to teach the acquiring limitation. However, Appellants traverse such a combination of references. Kimble is limited to using the time interval to either activate a function of an icon or snap to an icon. There is no suggestion or motivation to build upon such a teaching to select a particular point on an object. In fact, the use of particular points, lines, or features of objects are not even remotely contemplated in

Kimble. Further, as described above, Venolia also fails to teach acquiring a data point on a drawing object after a cursor is moved near the data point. Thus, even the combination of Venolia and Kimble would fail to teach the invention as claimed.

Instead, the combination (which Appellants submit cannot be accomplished due to their nonanalagous status) would teach moving a cursor near an object at which point the cursor would snap over the object (in accordance with Kimble) and the user could then click the mouse and drag the entire object towards another object (in accordance with Venolia). Alternatively, the cursor could be placed over an object (in accordance with Kimble) and a function of the object could be enabled by remaining over the object (i.e., in accordance with Kimble's dwell feature). Thereafter, the user could select the object and drag it towards another object. In either situation, a data point on the object is not acquired after the cursor remains near the data point for a pause time. In view of the above, Appellants assert that these claims are neither suggested, taught, or described, implicitly or explicitly by the cited references.

D. Dependent Claims 7, 19, and 30 Are Patentable Over the Cited References

In response to Appellants arguments, the Answer provides that since the size and dimension of the object can be changed (as recited in col. 9, lines 36-60), the acquisition distance from the edge of the object may also be changed.

Appellants respectfully traverse such an assertion. Firstly, Kimble's "domains" are areas "established about each icon, wherein each icon domain is larger than the icon itself" (see Kimble's abstract and col. 2, lines 21-23). Kimble provides that the size and dimensions of the domain (and NOT the icon) may be altered. Accordingly, contrary to the assertion in the Answer, the size and dimension of Kimble's objects cannot be changed. Instead, only the domain can be changed. These dependent claims specifically provide that an acquisition distance (the distance away from a data point) may be determined based on a group of parameters. The group contains a magnification of a view of the **object** and an **object** type. Neither of such parameters are described in Kimble whatsoever. In this regard, a dimension that surrounds an object/icon is not remotely similar to an object type nor a magnification of a view of the object.

Accordingly, Appellants submit that these claims are in allowable form.

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E. Dependent Claims 8, 20, and 31 Are Patentable Over the Cited References

These claims provide the step of annotating an acquired data point with an acquisition indicator. The Answer provides that the cursor is considered an annotation indicating an acquisition. However, the use of such language and equivalencies is contrary to the use of the language "acquisition indicator" in the present specification. An acquisition indicator is an indicator on the acquisition data point that the data point has been acquired after a cursor has been moved near the data point (see page 7, line 28-page 8, line 5 of the specification):

> In one embodiment of the invention, the acquired data point 303 is annotated with an acquisition indicator 308, as shown in block 208. For convenience, the shape, color, or other attribute of the acquisition indicator 308 can be changed to reflect a characteristic of the acquired data point 303. For example, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3B, a square acquisition indicator 308A is used to denote the acquisition of an endpoint 303A, and a triangular acquisition indicator 308B is used to denote the acquisition of a midpoint 303B.

Fig. 3B illustrates such acquisition indicators. Such figures and text clearly illustrate that the cursor is not the acquisition indicator. In this regard, a cursor cannot be an annotation in the present claims. Webster's dictionary provides the following definition for the term "annotation":

> **annotation**
>
> \An`no*ta"tion\, n. [L. annotatio: cf. F. annotation.] A note, added by way of comment, or explanation; – usually in the plural; as, annotations on ancient authors, or on a word or a passage.
>
> Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.*

Even using this definition, Kimble's cursor is not a note, comment, or explanation added to the drawing. Instead, Kimble's cursor is merely snapped to an icon. Accordingly, Kimble does not even remotely suggest, implicitly or explicitly, the annotation of a data point with an acquisition indicator.

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F. Dependent Claims 9, 10, 21, 22, 32, and 33 Are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 10, 22, and 33 provide for a series of steps for unacquiring a data point. Namely, a cursor is moved away from the data point, then near the data point again, followed by an unaquisition if the cursor remains near the data point for an unacquisition pause time. To teach these claim elements, the final Office Action merely recites the movement of a cursor and the demagnitizing in col. 10, lines 10-11. Further, the Answer merely relies on the cursor snapping to a neighboring icon if the cursor is not moved away for a period of time (col. 10, lines 32-35).

As described in the Appeal Brief, the demagnetization is merely how long an object will remain demagnetized and does not provide for moving a cursor into an area and timing how long the cursor remains there in order to determine if a data point should be unacquired. Further, the series of steps used to unacquire the data point is not even remotely suggested in Kimble. After a point has been acquired, the user moves the cursor away, then moves it back, then waits near the cursor to unacquire the point. Kimble merely provides that the cursor can snap to a different neighboring pixel if the cursor is not moved for a specified time interval. Such a teaching does not teach the specific series of unacquiring steps recited in claims 10, 22, and 33.

Further, as claimed, the data point is unacquired, while in Kimble, an entire object/icon is snapped to and another entire object (and not a specific data point) is acquired. Such an icon "hopping" is not suggested by the claims. Instead, the claims provide for acquiring a data point and then unacquiring the data point. Such a teaching is not present, implicit or explicit, in Kimble.

G. Dependent Claim 11 Is Patentable Over the Cited References

To teach that an acquisition pause time is different from the unacquisition pause time, the Answer merely provides that since "the time interval" is configurable by the user, the user can adjust the time interval to be different from the acquisition time interval. Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

In Kimble, a single time interval is established and configured by the user. The time interval allows the initial selection of an icon/object and if the cursor remains for the same time interval, a neighboring icon/object is selected instead of the first icon/object. There is no suggestion, implicit

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or explicit, in Kimble that several different time intervals may be set and/or configured by the user. In fact, Kimble does not even suggest different time intervals whatsoever. In this regard, the Answer relies on obviousness to teach the use of several different time intervals as claimed. Appellants traverse such an obviousness determination and submit that Kimble fails to teach, describe, or suggest such claimed language.

II. CONCLUSION

In light of the above arguments, Appellants respectfully submit that the cited references do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. More specifically, Appellants' claims recite novel physical features which patentably distinguish over any and all references under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. As a result, a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversing the Examiner and directing allowance of the pending claims in the subject application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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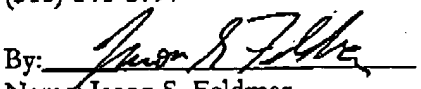
By: 
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G&C 30566.60-US-01

APPENDIX

1. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method of acquiring a data point of interest on a drawing object, comprising the steps of:

accepting a command to move a cursor near the data point of interest on the drawing object in a computer-implemented drawing program; and

acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the pause time is user-selectable.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the object is a linear entity.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of accepting a command to move the cursor away from the data point to extend the linear entity.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the data point is selected from a group comprising:

an endpoint;

a midpoint;

a node;

a closest quadrant point;

an insertion point;

a point on a line tangent to the object; and

a point on a line that forms a normal from the object.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time comprises the step of acquiring the data point after the cursor remains within an acquisition distance of the data point for an acquisition pause time.

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7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 6, wherein the acquisition distance is determined according to a parameter selected from a group comprising

magnification of a view of the object; and

an object type.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of annotating the acquired data point with an acquisition indicator.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the acquired data point for an unacquisition pause time.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accepting a command to move the cursor away from near the data point;

accepting a command to move the cursor near the data point; and

unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for the unacquisition pause time.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 10, wherein the unacquisition pause time is a different value than the acquisition pause time.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

accepting a command to move the cursor near a second data point on a second object;

acquiring the second data point after the cursor remains near the second data point for the acquisition pause time; and

aligning the first object and the second object according to the acquired first data point and the acquired second data point.

13. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) An apparatus for acquiring a data point of interest on a drawing object, comprising:

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means for accepting a command to move a cursor near the data point of the drawing object in a computer-implemented drawing program; and

means for acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time.

14. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pause time is user-selectable.

15. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the object is a linear entity.

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for accepting a command to move the cursor away from the data point to extend the linear entity.

17. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the data point is selected from the group comprising:

an endpoint;

a midpoint;

a node;

a closest quadrant point;

an insertion point;

a point on a line tangent to the object; and

a point on a line that forms a normal from the object.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time comprises the step of acquiring the data point after the cursor remains within an acquisition distance of the data point for an acquisition pause time.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the acquisition distance is determined according to a parameter selected from a group comprising:

magnification of a view of the object; and

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an object type.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising means for annotating the acquired data point with an acquisition indicator.

21. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising means for unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the acquired data point for an unacquisition pause time.

22. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

means for accepting a command to move the cursor away from near the data point;

means for accepting a command to move the cursor near the data point; and

means for unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for the unacquisition pause time.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

means for accepting a command to move the cursor near a second data point on a second object;

means for acquiring the second data point after the cursor remains near the second data point for the acquisition pause time; and

means for aligning the first object and the second object according to the acquired first data point and the acquired second data point.

24. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A program storage device, readable by a computer, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the computer in a drawing program to perform method steps of acquiring a data point of interest on a drawing object, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting a command to move a cursor near the data point of interest on the drawing object; and

acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time.

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25. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the pause time is user-selectable.

26. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the object is a linear entity.

27. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 26, wherein the method steps further comprise the step of accepting a command to move the cursor away from the data point to extend the linear entity.

28. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the data point is selected from the group comprising:

an endpoint;

a midpoint;

a node;

a closest quadrant point;

an insertion point;

a point on a line tangent to the object; and

a point on a line that forms a normal from the object.

29. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the method step of acquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time comprises the step of acquiring the data point after the cursor remains within an acquisition distance of the data point for an acquisition pause time.

30. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 29, wherein the acquisition distance is determined according to a parameter selected from a group comprising:

magnification of a view of the object; and

an object type.

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31. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the method steps further comprise the method step of annotating the acquired data point with an acquisition indicator.

32. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the method steps further comprise the step of unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the acquired data point for an unacquisition pause time.

33. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the method steps further comprise the steps of:

accepting a command to move the cursor away from near the data point;

accepting a command to move the cursor near the data point; and

unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the data point for the unacquisition pause time.

34. (ORIGINAL) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein the method steps further comprise the steps of:

accepting a command to move the cursor near a second data point on a second object;

acquiring the second data point after the cursor remains near the second data point for the acquisition pause time; and

aligning the first object and the second object according to the acquired first data point and the acquired second data point.

35. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method of unacquiring an acquired data point, comprising the steps of:

accepting a command to move a cursor near the acquired data point of a drawing object in a computer-implemented drawing program; and

unacquiring the data point after the cursor remains near the acquired data point for an unacquisition pause time.

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36. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method of acquiring a data point of interest on a drawing object, comprising the steps of:

accepting a modifier command; and

acquiring the data point of interest on a drawing object in a computer-implemented drawing program after a command is received to move a cursor near the data point, wherein the data point is not acquired without the modifier command.

37. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 36, wherein the data point is acquired after the cursor remains near the data point for an acquisition pause time.

38. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of claim 36 wherein the modifier command comprises the depression of a keyboard key.

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